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Volume 18, Issue 17

THE UNDERGROUND

www.scar.utoronto.ca/homes/undergrou

Tuesday, January 26, 1999

Ban the party poopers! Scarborough just wants to have fun! See article on page 8. *Justin Perrett/UG*

Government may fund part of ARC

Student levy would be reduced

Brook Land-Murphy
Asst. News Editor

An influx of ARC propaganda on campus signals the approach of the provincial government's verdict regarding sources of funding for the new rescource centre. In three weeks, the management committee of the cabinet will vote on Scarborough's proposal. Should the committee pass the initiative, the student body will vote on paying a levy to help fund the project. Administration, SAC, and other student groups already battle for votes. The controversial levy would amount to an annual fee of fifty dollars per student for the next five years.

"The lead gift conveys the message to private donors of its own commitment to its own priorities," said Tom Nowers, Associate Vice-Principal of Student Affairs.

Kim Tobin, Senior Development Officer, stated that private contributors continue to withhold offers due to a lack of student affirmation for the

Harris government may back ARC

project. Tobin stated that even if the government grant does pass, students will still contribute to the project. At best, the levy fee will decrease in light of a provincial government grant. Tobin is confident that students will vote to support the ARC, citing the recent decision of the Gratitude Campaign to fund one the of the study rooms in the ARC as a leading example of such a support.

The Senior Development Officer believes that "They [the students] still see the merit of leaving a legacy, even if they're not going to reap the benefits themselves."

Martine St. Louis, SAC Scarborough Chair, disagrees. "SAC has taken a stance against the ARC…It's not fair for students to have to pay this levy. I think the fee is high, and students are already suffering from tuition increases."

St. Louis suggested that undergraduates would be more likely to support the construction of a student centre as opposed to the ARC. To reaffirm her opposition to the construction, she stressed that those students currently employed in the computer centre will lose their jobs when the facility is built.

However, Nowers asserts that all students clearly benefit from the project. The expansion of the library, which will include a large multi-media lecture hall and more study rooms, will alleviate the space crisis Scarborough currently faces. With the construction of a large lecture hall, Saturday exams and dirty lecture halls will cease to exist. Currently, some lecture halls are overlooked when cleanings are scheduled and, due to lack of time, are not properly maintained.

Imperial Oil donates millions to Universities

Derek Chezzi and Karen Foster
CUP - Toronto

A Canadian oil giant will donate $3.25 million to four universities across the country in a move that's being met with both gratitude and harsh criticism.

The Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation will distribute the cash over the next five years for projects that improve math, technology and science curriculums at the schools. The University of Toronto, the University of Alberta, and York University will each receive $1 million. The remaining $250,000 will go to the University of New Brunswick. Barbara Haduke, president of the foundation, says half of its donations are geared towards education.

"Math, science and technology appeared as a real need and that was a good fit with Imperial Oil," said Haduke. "We recruit from these kinds of disciplines, and in general for our country, we are going to need people with these skills more in this global marketplace."

Officials from each of the four universities said they were pleased by the news. "Because it's focused, I think it's going to have a great impact in the long run," said Dr. Larry Beauchamp, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, of the donation. University officials were also quick to point out that the donation comes with no suspect obligations.

"We just don't take a donation from any company with strings attached," said Stan Shapson, Associate Vice President of York University's strategic academic initiative. They didn't put strings attached. We think it goes to a good education purpose."

Representatives of the other recipient universities agreed accepting Imperial Oil's money doesn't compromise their integrity.

"It's obviously fabulous because there are really no strings attached," said Michael Fullan, Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

But student groups aren't convinced the universities won't have to give something up in return for the cash. They say large donations like the one from Imperial Oil are indications of corporate influence on universities.

"These deals are really dangerous," said York Federation of Students president Dawn Palin. "They allow corporations to have control over what will be the best-funded programs at university."

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FUNK DA FIDE

EDITORIAL: (416) 287-7054 FAX: (416) 287-7055 R-2203E

Faculty Night at Scarborough

Mezba Uddin Mahtab
Contributor

The Biology and Chemistry Clubs at U of T Scarborough organized a Faculty Night last Wednesday. The purpose of the free event was to allow students the opportunity to meet their professors in an informal wine and cheese setting.

"It provides an opportunity for students to overcome their shyness of their instructors," explained Varsha Thakur, the President of Biology Club.

Anand Govindarajan, President of Chemistry Club, echoed Thakur's reaction: "The professors are all available, and it's strictly informal."

However, the event failed to attract many students, particularly those in first year, who could have capitalized on such a session. Most in attendance were in their third or fourth year and many belonged to the executive committees of the clubs.

Will Law/UG
Faculty Night targets timing

"It's been mostly seniors asking about program and course selections," said Professor Govind, adding that he thinks "it's a pity that there are not many first or second year students."

The biology instructor asserted that first and second year students need events like these more than those in other years, so that they can make proper course selections and planning, rather than regretting what could have been in the final years.

Thakur acknowledged that the attendance had been a problem in the past, but insists that the clubs did all they could do to bring in more diversity. "We published fliers, notified by e-mail and web, and announced the event in classes."

Richard Tran, a second year biology student, complained, "It felt awkward walking into a room with mostly seniors and professors, who are busy with each other. I could not bring myself to speak to them when they were surrounded by third or fourth years."

He also suggested that the event should be held earlier in the Fall, not after the Christmas break when many students had already received their mid-term marks and did not feel like attending. Tran claimed he was there only because he paid his membership fee.

Most students participating had done so just to chat with their instructors in an informal setting. As a result, many felt less inhibited about meeting with their professors in the future.

"In that sense," Professor Jim Gourd of Bio-Chem opined, "I would call it a great event, even though I did not see many first years."

Timing was another issue associated with the night. Alex Wong, Vice President of the Chemistry Club, addressed the suggestion of holding the night in the previous term.

"I believe the time is just right. We have new classes, new courses, and new teachers." When asked if the occasion would have faced the same problem in the fall, he replied, "It's a catch-22, but I believe new students are better prepared to attend later in the year when they have adjusted themselves at the university."

Jim Thompson, the chair of Physical and Life Sciences, however said that the wine and cheese night was still a success. "The organizers worked really hard arranging for all the faculty to be here. The food was great and it was a real informal atmosphere all around."

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NEWS

U of T: Now Hiring

Iffat Azeem
Contibutor

The University of Toronto plans to hire 500 new professors by the year 2004. This project has already generated twenty million dollars from the Academic Priorities Fund. This influx in professor hirings makes most grad students very happy.

Carolyn Tuohy provided information for a Toronto Star article on this subject. Tuohy states that the '500' figure is an overall agregate number and the specifics have not been determined yet. The '500' figure also includes an estimated backlog of professors.

The sudden need for so many professors is entirely based on retirements from all three campuses. Tuohy points out that the St. George campus has more senior staff in ratio to Erindale or Scarborough, thus they are hit hardest with the number of retirements. U of T has already started looking for 120 prospective professors and Tuohy stresses that U of T grads are not receiving special treatmnet. The university is looking for young graduates as well as experienced senior staff.

"Newly minted Phd's are being recruited, but appointments at the senior level are also very important since we are primarily losing faculty at the senior level," according to Tuohy.

The impact of these retirements and hirings are not yet apparent in relation to Scarborough Campus. The college's executive staff have to make decisions reflecting their individual campus after all details are confirmed.

You can fight City Hall

Lisa Gardner
Asst. News Editor

U of T employee Tom Reid was charged when taking part in an October 7th demonstration on campus last year against Ontario's privatization minister. Reid appealed the condition which prohibited him, upon his release, from further participation in any campus demonstrations last Tuesday at Old City Hall Court and won.

"I believe his human rights have been violated," said Chris Ramsaroop, SAC President and member of the Committee to Defend Democratic Rights at U of T.

Reid was arrested on October 16, 1998 for assaulting police at the $150 per plate fundraising dinner held at Hart House for Rob Sampson, the Tory minister of privatization. Reid's legal team immediately filed a Notice and Constitutional Issue arguing that preventing his partaking in protests to come, violates Reid's: "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, as guaranteed by section 2(b) of the Charter"; "freedom of peaceful assembly, as guaranteed by section 2(c) of the Charter"; and "right to life, liberty and security of person in a manner not in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice, contrary to section 7 of the Charter."

To further the matter, the U of T administration threatened to impose a separate disciplinary procedure on Reid through its Labour Relations Department. These threats are currently under suspension.

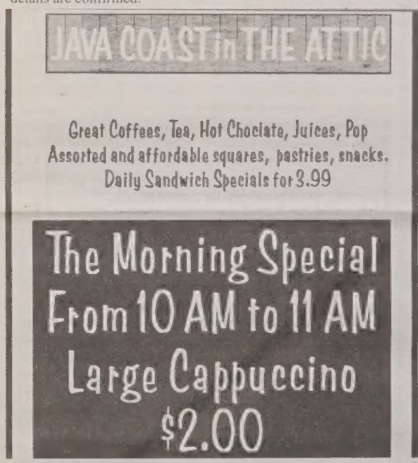
"We have a judicial system designed to take care of these matters; there is no need for the administration to interfere with their own procedures," says Ramsaroop who feels, along with the Committee, that Reid was falsely accused.

The Committee to Defend Democratic Rights at U of T stated in their founding remarks that, "Those who were present know that there was no assault and that Tom in particular was guilty of nothing more than participating in the anti-privatization protest."

Ramsaroop feels that there has been a long history of mishandling situations like Reid's at U of T and other universities, and contends that "Reid has been a prominent activist on campus...maybe this is a way to silence him."

To further support Reid in his fight, Ramsaroop, alongside the President of the GSU, will be conducting a defense campaign. On Saturday February 20th, a benefit party is being organized to raise funds for Reid's legal defense.

"We're getting together to support Tom," says Ramsaroop.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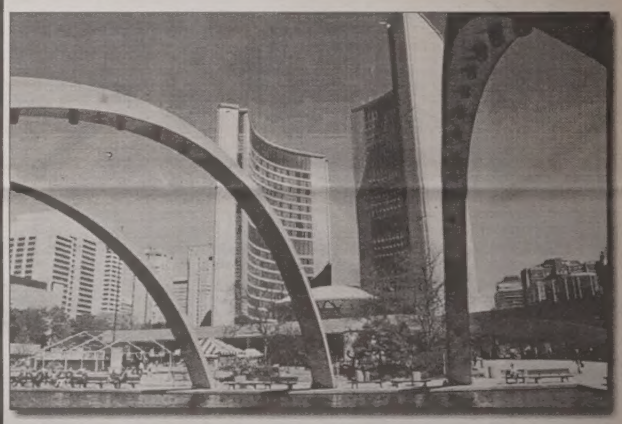

Federal student loans may look starkly different in new millenium

Derek Chezzi
CUP - Toronto

If the proposals that have been kicking around Parliament Hill for the past few months are any indication, the turn of the century may herald some major changes to the Canada Student Loans program. Ottawa raised the ire of student activists in December, when it announced it would spend the next six months considering whether to deny loans to students attending post-secondary institutions with a high number of loan defaults.

The Canada Student Loans program expires August 1, 2000. Under the proposed "institutional designation," universities and colleges with a high level of student loan delinquents would become ineligible to participate in the national program.

Privately-run vocational schools would be hardest hit by the proposal since they have the highest rates of student default, student groups say. "Effectively, the federal government is saying, 'We would rather bankrupt a generation than invest in education right now,'" says Elizabeth Carlyle, national chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Carlyle says she's opposed to institutional designation because it punishes universities and colleges for social and economic factors beyond their control.

"There's a lot of places where students just cannot make ends meet, not because of their own fault but because unemployment is 20 to 30 per cent or higher," she says.

Not surprisingly, university administrators were also concerned by the idea. "It needs to be considered cautiously," says Teresa Alm, president of the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, which represents loan administrators at post-secondary institutions across the country. "It needs to be discussed very extensively before being instituted."

But Ottawa's decision to examine institutional designation is just the latest in what critics say is a prolonged attack on post-secondary education. Late last year, for example, the federal Liberals amended the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, extending the waiting period for students who need to declare bankruptcy from two to ten years after leaving school.

At the same time, observers say changes to some provincial loans programs are also casting students adrift as large financial institutions scale back their involvement. Most recently, the Royal Bank of Canada made headlines when it pulled out of the loans programs in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, citing heavy financial losses and high default rates as the reason.

At issue in both provinces was the risk premium rate of five per cent, which the Royal Bank said wasn't enough to cover the actual rate of default. Royal Bank's decision will affect more than 6,000 students who will now be left with only the National Bank to administer their provincial loans. The changes raised concerns that the National Bank alone won't be able to adequately meet the needs of student lenders.

It also sparked criticism from student leaders who charged that the bank was bailing on the program because it wasn't turning a profit. But Royal Bank spokesman Sean Kirby disagrees, saying Royal Bank remains very interested in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick's loans programs.

"We're not in the business to make money on student loans," says Kirby. "We do it because we think it's important." Carlyle says she finds it hard to believe that a for-profit company would be involved with a student loans program if didn't expect to make money.

"Why else would they be in it?" she asks. "What other reason is there to be involved? We should by no means believe that they are philanthropical."

And until she sees the numbers, Carlyle says, she's skeptical that default rates were as high as the Royal Bank says. "We've always said banks should not be ... in this program," she states.

The Royal Bank isn't the first big bank to decide not to renew its contract with a provincial student loan program. Since the federal and provincial governments handed over full administration of student loans to banks in 1995, there have been several cases of back peddling by financial institutions. In the past two years, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has withdrawn from the loans programs in Nova Scotia and Manitoba, leaving the Royal Bank as the sole lender in those provinces at the time.

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Letters/Opinion Policy

All Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed and delivered to The Underground before noon, Friday. The length of the letters must be restricted to 200 words or less. The student's name and ID number must be included. Submission does not guarantee use.

Letters will be published on the basis of relevance and availability of space. The Editorial Board of The Underground reserves the right not to accept letters containing statements which could be construed as malicious or libelous. Material submitted will be edited at the discretion of the Board.

Opinions expressed in unsolicited material such as Letters to the Editor or commentary articles do not necessarily represent the views of The Underground, its staff members or the publisher. By submission, authors implicitly warrant that no liability for any loss suffered through typographic errors, headlines or editing of the copy will be attached to The Underground, its Editorial Board or the publisher.

The Underground is published by the Scarborough Campus Student Press, a non-profit corporation. It is funded by way of a direct levy to students of Scarborough Campus, and through local and national advertising. **The Underground** is a member of **Canadian University Press (CUP).**

The Underground, UofT Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Rm R-2203E
West Hill, Ontario M1C 1A4
phone: (416) 287-7054
fax: (416) 287-7055
e-mail: **underground@scar.utoronto.ca**

The Emergency Room

Tobias enters at 5:01. His head hurts. His back aches. He has a fever, a dry cough, and dizzies when he stands up too quickly. The lady at the desk checks his wallet, finds the appropriate information, and directs him to a cluster of purple chairs, of which, thankfully, one is vacant. Beside him a woman tugs at her sari, removes both sandals, and diligently picks at her toenails, one by one, from big toe to baby toe, and then the entire circuit again in reverse.

A young boy wails from across the room. He holds tufts of his mother's hair as, his fever climaxing, he gnashes his teeth at her face, trying to find the fleshy nose. The father stands against the wall, bearing witness. A baby watches from his mother's shoulder, scans the walls, reaches for the toe-picker, and vomits a white stream down the coat sleeve of his mother. Tobias catches her embarrassed face and offers an attempt at a sympathetic smile. An hour passes.

"Tobias. Mr Tobias!"

He walks, slowly, to the lady at the desk. She seats him beside her, checks his temperature, and announces the verdict. "You have a fever, Tobias. Sit back down and wait to be called in." Tobias returns to his seat, winks at the woman beside him. She sits in a wheelchair, one foot raised, thumbs through a suspense novel. In 90 minutes, she advances two chapters (37 pages).

"Tobias. Mr Tobias!"

A woman, wearing a red T-shirt, takes his arm and leads him to a hallway. "The inner sanctum," Tobias says aloud. "Not quite. Just a little while longer. Sit here. You have a fever," she replies. Tobias is seated, uncomfortably, in a new, blue chair before a long metal door. Women in pink always bump his leg when they move past him. He closes his eyes and attempts to dream, but considers the fever-inspired images less entertaining than the bland, cold alternative. He thinks about a novel he would like to write, brings thoughts of art into an otherwise artless experience. Another hour passes. It is 8:31.

"Tobias. Mr. Tobias!"

Through the metal door, a world of white sheets, half-drawn curtains, plush pillows, dials, registers, clipboards. "He's out right now. He'll be back in a half hour. You have a fever," another woman says to him. He is reunited with the biting boy, the wheelchair woman, toe-picker, and vomit baby. Five characters all seeking the same thing, all mounted atop high beds.

The door swings open and a lanky man breezes in, grabs the clipboards, and attends to toe-picker. He diagnoses the biting boy. Tobias is last in the line-up. The wheelchair woman will take at least twenty minutes. Another man enters, grabs a clipboard, looks for a pen.

"Tobias. Mr. Tobias!"

He advances, checks throat, rhythms, breaths. "You have a fever. Probably flu. Rest. Drink. Sleep. Good night." At precisely 10:01, Tobias is stunned. A woman tugs at his sleeve on his way out.

"They do this for a reason, you know. A response to Michael's cuts. Inefficiency. They want you to complain. They want you to suffer."

Tobias nods.

Disappearing Act

I once knew a little child, very little, nameless, open to the world and all faces and ideas, open to a country of answers, a continent of questions, a hemisphere of hope, who could've been the greatest magician because he disappeared without a word. Without even an 'abracadabra.'

Tim Soucie

Warning: Writing for The Underground does not cause sleeplessness

OPINIONS

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily correspond with those of The Underground

Transit Trouble Complaints

Mezba Uddin Mahtab
Contributor

TTC. I have always believed Toronto had a very commendable transit system. Even with the snowstorm of the decade raging around us, I looked to the cities down in the States, cities that had closed down for weeks, cities that had come to a standstill, and then when I looked once again to Toronto, the city was still alive. The TTC was still operating. Down, but not out. We had not closed down, nor had we surrendered to the winter. The TTC had earned my respect.

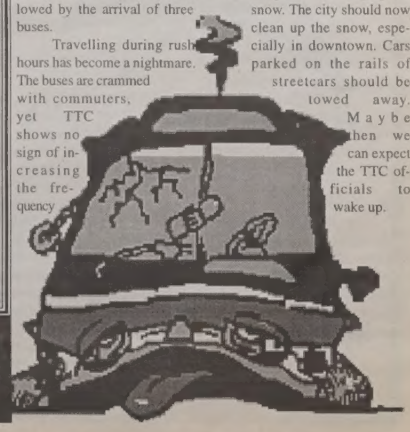
Well, not anymore. TTC is a service I am paying for. As with any other business, I expect good quality service. Granted, the snow has caused problems. But what is the matter now? Is it still snowing? An hour journey down Ellesmere Road to York Mills now takes an hour and half. Long waits at the bus stops have become a daily routine. The notice may say, "buses every 10 minutes", but what I experience generally is a 25 minute wait, followed by the arrival of three buses.

Travelling during rush hours has become a nightmare. The buses are crammed with commuters, yet TTC shows no sign of increasing the frequency of buses. Downtown travel grows in complexity each day. The streetcars seem to have lost all adherences to schedules and you never know when the next one is coming.

I finally lost all respect for the TTC last week. After eventually catching the 54A down Lawrence Road, the bus trudged on until it finally stopped. When we asked the driver why, he replied that his shift was over and he was waiting for the other driver to arrive. This turned out to be a thirty-minute wait, the many passengers sitting in the cold and damp bus. Eventually the other driver did not arrive and it had to be driven by the same driver.

Why should we commuters suffer because this driver's shift was over? TTC should pay him overtime then, and fine the driver who failed to show up. Yes, the drivers are generally courteous, but an apology does not always make you feel very good.

We are having sunshine and rain, both of which should have helped in cleaning up the snow. The city should now clean up the snow, especially in downtown. Cars parked on the rails of streetcars should be towed away. Maybe then we can expect the TTC officials to wake up.



NEWS

Campus residences not covered under tenant act

Kelly Pedro
CUP - Toronto

Students living in residences at Ontario's colleges and universities should be protected under the province's tenancy legislation, student activists say. Currently, Ontario's Tenant Protection Act does not cover students living in undergraduate campus residences, leaving them with no formal protection of their housing rights.

While most universities have their own tenancy policies in place, critics say the fact that students aren't covered by provincial legislation leaves them in a vulnerable position.

"Tenancy depends on student status and there's quite a gap there because [universities and colleges] can pretty much do what they want," said Debra Ram, director of the community and legal aid services program at Osgoode Law School.

Although graduate apartments fall under the Tenant Protection Act, undergraduate residences are excluded because they lack self-contained bathroom and kitchen facilities. This leaves Ontario universities with complete discretion over undergraduate residences. For example, the provincial legislation requires landlords to give tenants 30 days notice before an eviction. Ontario universities, on the other hand, are not required to give students living in undergraduate residences any notice.

"It gives universities and colleges too much power and sets up an unfair situation," said Joel Harden, chairman of the Ontario component of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Harden believes a single set of rules governing students is needed to ensure they are treated fairly. Student advocates also say they're worried by the fact that since universities aren't bound by the Tenant Protection Act, they can charge whatever they think the market will bear.

It's not clear why dorm-style housing isn't subject to Ontario's Tenant Protection Act.

According to Kevin Sullivan, manager of existing housing policy for the Ministry of Housing, student groups didn't lobby to have undergraduate residences covered by the legislation when the province revised it in 1997.

But Harden says the Canadian Federation of Students submitted proposals to the Progressive Conservative government asking that residences be included in the act. The lobby group also submitted a research paper showing how hard students were hit by rent increases, he said. "Basically it was ignored," stated Harden.

Students living in Ontario residences aren't the only ones without formal housing protection. Students living in undergraduate residence apartments in Alberta, Newfoundland, and British Columbia also lack formal protection under their province's tenancy legislation. Despite the fact they're not covered by provincial tenancy law however, these students still have options. Even though they can't lodge complaints with the provincial housing tribunal, students living in undergraduate residences can still turn to small claims court if they have problems, Ram says.

Oil giant gives universities a boost

IMPERIAL *from page 1*

She and other student leaders argue that as more university programs become funded by private dollars, the government will become less committed to funding post-secondary education. Diane Naugler, President of York's Graduate Student Association, also criticized the universities for approaching Imperial Oil for the money instead of lobbying for more government dollars. All four universities approached Imperial Oil separately in 1998.

"The fact that the universities approached the Imperial Oil foundation means our infrastructure is putting money into finding money," said Naugler. "We could be spending that same money to find money by approaching governments as well and trying to change the tide at the same time." Still, Naugler says she understands why the universities approached Imperial Oil in the face of significant government cutbacks to post-secondary education.

"I can appreciate the bind the university is in," she said. "I think that they need to be careful that they don't singularly focus on industry to rectify the funding crisis."

The University of Alberta will use the money to fund its centre for the sciences, which it plans to rename the Imperial Oil National Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education. It will operate as a linking agency for similar bodies across Canada and continue to develop new programs for Alberta's elementary and high school teachers. A member of Imperial Oil's management will sit on the centre's executive decision-making board.

But director David Blades says the centre's goal is not to provide Imperial Oil with employees, although he can understand the company's interest in it.

"We do not exist to promote skills for the oil sector, but people do want to hire students with basic science skills," he said.

Haduke is also adamant that Imperial Oil will have no direct influence on the centre's projects despite the representation it will have on the board.

"It [will keep] us in touch with what they want to see in the centre," she said. At the University of Toronto, Imperial Oil's donation will be put toward developing a clearing house of teaching materials and establishing the first Canadian journal of education in science, math and technology. Through York's new Imperial Oil Science Education Program, the donation will go toward facilitating the Internet component of the Pan-Canadian Science Curriculum Project.

Moved to York last September from Industry Canada in Ottawa, the project was created by the Council of Ministers of Education to develop national education standards.

Scarborough Campus Student Press invites the student body of U of T at Scarborough to

The SCSP General Meeting

When:

Monday, February 1, 1999 from noon to 2 pm

Where:

Meeting Place

Why:

To hold an exciting forum discussing new bylaws

A full set of by-laws are available during office hours in the underground office (R2203E).

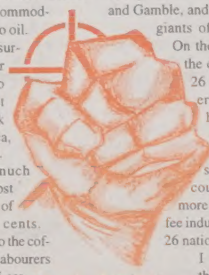
COLUMNS

Coffee Corner (1 of 2)

Patricia A. Godoy
Contributor

"Coffee has never been just a drink. It's loaded with social and political consequence." — Mark Shapiro, Utne Reader.

Coffee is the world's most actively traded commodity, second only to oil. It should be no surprise to discover that coffee is also the second most consumed drink in North America, next to tap water.



So how much money does it cost to make one cup of coffee? Seven cents. And how much do the coffee farmers and labourers earn in one day? Less than 1 dollar. How many cups of coffee are sold each day in North America? What about at the Coffee Time in the R-wing? Who knows? What is known is that coffee is the third most sprayed crop in the world. So what? Many things are sprayed these days, right? But this crop is being sprayed with Malathon and DDT. These chemicals have long been banned in Canada.

Were you aware of that? Why not? Because the coffee industry doesn't want you to know. And just who 'is' the coffee industry? Three American multinational corporations control over 70% of the coffee industry. General Foods, Proctor and Gamble, and Nestle are the giants of the industry. On the other side of the coin, all of the 26 main producers of the bean have 3rd world status. It's almost funny to see how one country benefits more from the coffee industry than those 26 nations combined. I would think that this was another example of corporate success to learn about in management class, if it wasn't for the fact that even after a whole family works a 12 or 14 hours a day on a coffee plantation, their wages couldn't buy a cup of coffee in Canada. But I don't believe there can be any true success when it results from inequality and the exploitation of others.

Social Sniper

Brain Drain

Vernon Appadoo
Contributor

It is fair to say that Canada is a good place to get a formal education. Canadian universities are recognized as some of the best in the world, producing a wealth of research and knowledge. The Canadian academic system has produced four Nobel Prize winners over the years, including U of T's John Polanyi, who received the chemistry prize in 1986. However, due to a lack of government support, many Canadian scientists flock to the U.S.A. to fulfill their career goals. Canada is slowly being depleted of one of its most important resources: its brains.

It's easy to see why so many scientists leave Canada and head south of the border. The United States has always shown a strong commitment to the advancement of science and technology. With dwindling research grants in Canada, the lucrative research grants and lower taxes that America offers are very appealing.

Although Canada has a small population, we have managed to put ourselves on the center stage of many of the world's greatest scientific achievements. These range from the discovery of insulin at U of T in the 1920s to our groundbreaking research in nuclear power generation 30 years later. But those days are past. Now, we simply can't offer our best scientists the kind of money and resources that other modernized nations do. The story of Canadian Michael Smith, who won the Nobel Prize for his work on methods for altering genes and then was lured to Seattle to develop the technology, is a bitter reminder of how we lose our nation's brightest. Smith is not alone. It is estimated that about twelve other Nobel Prize winners, who received formal education in Canada, eventually left due to more attractive positions elsewhere.

The real problem arises when we look ahead to the future of the Canadian economy and the inevitable effects of a lack of funding to support sciences and engineering. It is difficult to expand an economy that is rooted in natural resources. If all our young talent leaves for better paying positions in foreign nations, Canada will become a vast wasteland of unfulfilled technological growth.

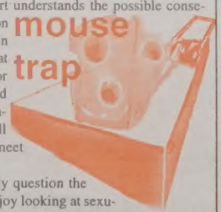
The most we can do at the moment is have private organizations lobby the government to increase funding to the sciences. Until the Canadian government can prove to its scientists that they will support them through research grants, our talent is still susceptible to the plague that is brain drain.

Porn in B.C. Courts

Karen Heath
Staff

John Sharp of British Columbia was found in possession of child pornography. In Canada this is illegal, and he was charged accordingly. Mr. Sharp felt that this law infringed upon his right of expression guaranteed to him in Section Two of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He took his case to the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The court ruled in his favor, declaring that the law against possession of child pornography did infringe upon his right of expression. Until this case is sent to the Court of Appeal, where the decision will either be upheld or overturned, it is considered legal to possess child porn magazines in B.C.

Since the British Columbian Supreme Court has been so kind as to feel that people should not be charged for buying child porn, I am curious to know if this court understands the possible consequences of this act. Will we soon be seeing child porn magazines in between Playboy and Penthouse at the corner store? The market for magazines of this sort is there, and now that it's legal to possess material of that kind, suppliers will be falling over themselves to meet the demand.



I cannot help but seriously question the mentality of individuals who enjoy looking at sexually explicit pictures of children. I must ask if the possessors of this material know that they are perpetuating a criminal act. Forcing children into sexual acts, apart from being disgustingly sick, is also illegal. Think of the children being forced into things they should not know of. They could bear the scars of that for years to come. These people did not take these pictures, know the children in them or even know where the acts took place. Yet they are in possession of crimes which were committed for them.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has allowed a man more in his way of freedom of expression. Why hasn't the court ensured the child's right to be protected from such things? I believe that child pornography is sickening and those who buy child porn are ill. I hope that the Court of Appeal overturns the Supreme Court's decision. It is the only proper thing to do. As an endnote, Mr. Sharp has requested police protection because he fears retaliation due to the court's decision in his favour.

Hurricane Mitch: An update

Amanda Montgomery
Contributor

Hurricane Mitch and its millions of victims disappeared from the mainstream media within a week and a half of the disaster. However, while the media may have lost interest in the impacts of the storm, the millions of survivors and hundreds of aid workers are still struggling to rebuild these countries following what was arguably the worst natural disaster to hit the region in two hundred years.

The destructive power of a hurricane

It is a bitter twist of irony that Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador were already among the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere. Each country has only recently emerged from an extremely violent internal conflict. Each country is saddled with an oppressive debt-load. Each country has a weak and fragile economy dependent on cheap agricultural and textile exports. These countries have neither the resources or the money to recover from the devastation of the hurricane.

Roads, airports, bridges, dams, homes, schools, hospitals, wells, and wharves need to be rebuilt. Electricity lines will have to be re-erected. Banana, coffee, coconut palm, and sugarcane plantations, as well as smaller farms, need to be replanted. Millions of families have to build new homes and new lives and replace their lost and damaged possessions. Thousands of land-mines must be cleared in what is a tedious and dangerous procedure. Millions of people need to be immunized against and treated for the host of illnesses such as amoebic dysentery, dengue fever and malaria that thrive in post-hurricane conditions.

Originally, the "clean-up" bill was estimated to be $5.4 billion (US) for Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. To this point, $6.3 billion (US) in relief supplies and donations have already arrived in the four countries and more is needed. Along with money and supplies, Western countries have engaged in various forms of debt assistance for Honduras and Nicaragua.

Unfortunately, the monetary aid pledged by countries around the world is not enough if it is only a one-time effort. The billions already donated have gone towards immediate relief assistance and cannot fund the massive reconstruction effort that will be necessary to rebuild the damaged countries. In Honduras, officials estimate that it will take approximately five years for the country to regain the level of development realized before the hurricane struck. These countries need sustained contributions of money, resources and personnel to assist them in the arduous and painful task of reconstruction.

The world must remember that the impacts of Hurricane Mitch have outlasted the interest of the mainstream media and help will be sorely needed for years to come. Many organizations are still accepting monetary donations to help the victims of hurricane Mitch. You can call the following agencies to make a donation:

Oxfam Canada: 1-800-466-9326
Care Canada: 1-800-267-5232
UNICEF Ontario: 416-487-4153

Volume 18, Issue 17

BODY

Stayin' Alive! BIG LEAGUES

hhmmm...Burger...

Teddy Bercovici
Staff

With the new year's resolutions came the promises to maintain a healthy body, right? Well, there are several tricks to keeping your body at its best. The major key is to be aware of what you put into it. Let's start with nutrition, which is just one of the many ways of keeping your body healthy or unhealthy. Nutrition is where we ALL lack. No matter what dieticians do, at one time or another they are lacking something in their diet, but they realize it, and correct it.

If you want to lose weight, you have to be educated. Go out and talk to people, get some books and learn some facts. There are many gimmicks out there, some might have some truth to them, whereas others contain nothing in them. I recently viewed an infomercial (wholesome nightly TV) and I saw these pills that allowed you to eat "anything" you wanted, while the fat would just go through your body. To top it off, they had "ripped" men and women enjoying burgers, and fried food without concern. Fat is a main concern, and people are uninformed about it. You can't eat fat and expect that it will just flow out of your system..

Fat is necessary and you need it. But, before you run out to McDonald's, read on: You need about 20g of fat for your body to use. Actually, having zero fat is harmful. You need to moderate it though. You shouldn't go above 50g of fat a day. Your body is somewhat forgiving. If you eat a burger early during the day (which might contain 30g of fat), don't eat pizza later on. Try and hold back. The rule here is that you should maintain a stable level of intake of calories and fat, and not that you should eat like a robot. We all have off days. If you exercise, also watch what you eat. Many people think that if they exercise, it gives them the privilege to down a few burgers. You can't exercise like mad and eat like a machine. Fat content should be monitored. Try and take in milk with a lower fat content, and avoid those dangerous saturated fats. I won't get into the details, but the rule of thumb here is that unsaturated fats are better.

For the meat eaters out there, I won't ask you to eat turkey all the time, because I can't do that either. I need my steak once in a while, but I also try to consume chicken and fish. They are lower in fat, and are also better for you. Eating certain kinds of fish may be better for you. The thing is, fish contain Omega-3-Fatty acids and they actually help break down fat and lower cholesterol. You can get these fatty acids in capsules too, but it wouldn't hurt to eat fish. Remember when someone told you that fish is brain food? Some studies show that it does help.

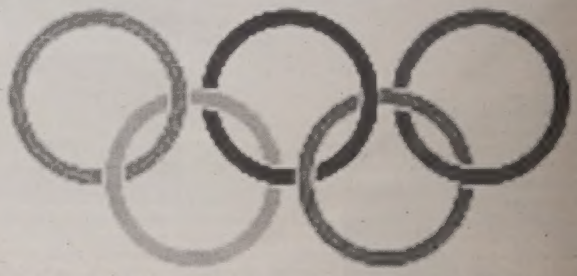
Another unknown fact about fat is that you need it as a vitamin carrier. Without some daily dose of a "little" fat, we couldn't maintain proper levels of Vitamins A, D, E and K.

Overall, the word fat should not be feared. You have to learn what it does, and how to maintain it. No doubt about it, we need it, but the reasons why a lot of North Americans have weight problems is due to the enormous consumption of high fat delicious food. Be careful, and just pay attention to what you eat. It's not about starving yourself or counting the calories. No one is asking you to eat without passion. If you are unsure, go talk to someone, or email me if you have any further questions. My address is teddy_bercovici@tvo.org.

The Olympic scandal revisited

Ted Christou
Health and Fitness Editor

In a world of corruption, greed, and injustice there are certain institutions and organizations that have remained symbols of purity (for lack of a better term). The Olympic Games are one of these symbols — at least they used to be.



The current scandal surrounding the International Olympic Committee is one that must be making all ancient Greeks spin in their graves. Thousands of years ago, the Olympic Games were founded as a way to unite quarrelling Greek states, honour the Gods, and highlight athletic prowess. Every Olympic year, wars would be put on hold and politics would be set aside. There was no greater honour any Greek could receive, than to become an Olympic champion. While the only material prize awarded these champions was an olive branch, the respect they were paid was simply extraordinary. To receive an Olympic victor returning home from his triumph, a city-state would literally tear down a part of its walls in order to make room for him to enter.

The symbol of the 2004 Olympics? Only more bickering, bullying and bribing can answer that.

In 1896, the Olympic Games became open to all countries of the world. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was established in order to preserve the integrity, tradition and values which had become synonymous with the athletic competition. Every four years, the world would unite in order to find the greatest among the competing amateur athletes. Medals replaced olive branches, and banquets replaced sacrifices to the Gods of Mount Olympus, but the Olympics became no less sacred. The pride involved in winning remained and inevitably grew to include a world-wide perspective.

Boycotts, drug scandals, and problems with judges are only a few of the problems which arose over the years. It would be naive to believe that the growing Olympic Games have remained immune to corruption, deceit, and politics.

Perhaps the most serious of the IOCs recent pitfalls was allowing professional athletes to compete with the amateurs. First it was the figure skaters, then the American "Dream Team" of basketball, and most recently the National Hockey League players have been added to the mix. As if the average hockey fan does not see enough of Dominik Hasek's flopping over an 82 + game schedule! The amount of extra coaching, training and experience received by professional athletes gives them an unfair advantage over the amateur athletes who deserve a stage on which they can be seen to all. For many of them, the Olympics are their only chance to leave their mark on a global scale and be remembered for their contributions to the sports they excel at. While professionals may be the "better talents," they have taken much of the "patriotic" edge out of the international competitions. When money and career become involved, personal showcases of talent become less about national pride, and more about springboards to endorsement deals, and bargaining chips in salary negotiations.

The 1996 Olympiad marked the 100th anniversary of its rebirth. It also marked one of its greatest low-points ever. Athens should have been the rightful host of the Games. Most sentimentalists agreed that it was only fair for the Olympics to return to the place of their birth in order to celebrate their golden anniversary. The Athenians presented a surprisingly solid bid, and were willing to work extraordinarily hard in order to prepare their city. What they could not do, however, was compete with media mogul Ted Turner's pocketbook. Not only did Atlanta have the backing of Turner, but also Coca Cola, the largest and most influential of all Olympic sponsors. It is also no coincidence that the economic and marketing potential of the United States far out-shadows that of Greece. When Atlanta was granted the Games, sentimentalists were left groaning, and economists were left smiling.

The recent bribery charges placed against IOC members who took bribes from Salt Lake City, and other cities are upsetting but not shocking. This scandal is just the latest step in the continual and gradual collapse we are witnessing. One cannot help but shudder at the hypocrisy demonstrated by people who have been handed the responsibility of upholding centuries of tradition and history.

Hope remains only if the Olympic Committee cleans house (if I may borrow a curling term). The corruption begins at the top with Juan Antonio Samaranch, and is rooted all the way to the core. Replacing the highest-standing figures may not solve the problem, but at the very least, it may send a message to Board Members, cities making bids, and sponsors

SOUL

Nice dress rehearsal, but when's the real thing?

Charles Mitchell
Staff

I was expecting to be blown away by Funk Da Fide and I wasn't. The affair was delivered in the Meeting Place and had the atmosphere of a high school production. But the organizers aren't to blame for poor staging; the concrete walls of Scarborough Campus just don't make a great backdrop for theatre.

Showing off sexy pajamas with style.

To the credit of the show, it was jazzed up with concert lighting and slamming music that kept up the energy of the audience despite the late start. The mostly hip-hop choreography was sloppy. The models and dancers seemed for the most part tentative especially in the opening act and the first couple of scenes. Some of the participants had to look at each other in order to keep their steps in sync. It was hard to tell how good it could have been if another month of steady rehearsing and reworking had taken place.

The clothes, on the other hand, were very well chosen and seemed to reflect the personalities of the dancers. Hip hoppers wore baggy jeans and shirts, and those on the more trendy side were outfitted in appropriate attire from Le Chateau and Sirens.

The disappointment of the first procession left me unprepared for the salsa and samba number that had me doing the Cha Cha in my seat in the second act. Fred Paiz and Anna Russo's choreography here was terrific. The only glitch was Freddie's white socks worn with black shoes. Anna Russo shone in this act and made her three-quarter-length skirt with the sexy slit seem tailor-made for Latin dance.

The nerves that were displayed by most of the participants in the previous offerings seemed to have vanished somewhat by the third scene of Jacob clothing. The models seemed relaxed and, for the most, part on top of their game. The lacklustre choreography itself was just a teaser for Jeff Stockdale's dead on lip synching and clowning. But still I couldn't understand the rest of the men in this number wearing casual shoes with suits.

Romantic elegance is in the air at the Funk da Fide *Fashion show*

But the whole staging seemed simply a precursor to the Janet Jackson miming of the last stint. In fact, Avant-Garde Male was taken aback. The choreography here was tighter than the little black bras the women displayed in the climax of the song.

The clothes weren't the focal point of this spectacle and who cared. We all came to see people we knew strut across the stage. But still there were some fashion highlights. The formal wear of Syd Silver was gorgeous. The look was understated elegance. Silk dresses with plunging necklines and the tuxedo-wearing men finally had it, right down to their patent leather pointed toe shoes. The subtlety of this performance worked well with the live vocals of Kamaria Hod and Anna Russo who belted out a great rendition of the Barbra Streisand and Celine Dion duet "Tell Him." I also enjoyed the retro sixties chic look of Austin Powers. That's what I like, clothes that can look like they came from either Goodwill or Queen Street and still look stylish either way. The faux fur and velour of Sirens was another standout feature.

As far as the talent pool, the models were chosen for what most did well: show attitude, although for some, their only forte was the ability to walk bipedal. The men were a non-entity. There weren't any budding Tyson's nor Mark Vanderloo's here. The guys were mainly filler used effectively to show off the women. Overall, two models stood out from the pack. Nathifa Grier had the stage presence, beauty and walk of a haute couture model, and the very beautiful Kamaria Hod commanded all the attention in every scene she was in, and left me wondering why the whole event wasn't staged around her.

The problem with Funk Da Fide was that it wasn't as meticulously stitched together as the clothes that were displayed. Almost everyone could have used a dose of Viagra for the lack of sexuality featured throughout the affair. It all came off as more of a dress rehearsal than an audience ready production. However, the most serious fiasco in the whole evening wasn't at the stage show, but at the Attic afterwards. In the middle of the night the DJ engaged the crowd in homophobic chants that were wholly inappropriate and offensive, and shouldn't have been tolerated, especially in an SCSC sanctioned multicultural event.

Kam--one of the many stars of the show.

CULTURE CORNER

MoonChildren - Reliving the '60s

Lisa Fenton
Contributor

Bell bottom pants, antiwar slogans, and the lives of eight senior university students are all part of the production of *MoonChildren*, which opens on January 27, 1999 at the Leigha Lee Browne Theatre. A play written by **Michael Weller**, *MoonChildren* is a comedy-drama set in the late 1960s in an apartment shared by seven students and spans the entire year up until their graduation.

In the opening scene, Mike, Cootie and Ruth excitedly await the birth of kittens, while Norman attempts to read his book. Dick, however, is on a mission to find the culprit eating his hamburgers, Bob is the troubled musician and Kathy just wants to take a shower. It's a typical day for a university student.

As time passes, Bob becomes more withdrawn from the group, Mike and Cootie continue to make light of every situation - inventing tall tales and fictitious events, Kathy is torn between her aloof boyfriend Bob and the insensitive Dick, and Norman tries to set himself on fire to protest the war. Each is absorbed in their personal lives and problems.

After the death of his mother, Bob finally sees past the surface to find that despite the closeness in age, shared interests and close quarters, nobody is better off than they were at the beginning of their school year. Everyone has avoided developing any lasting friendships or taking responsiblility and none of the housemates have offered emotional support to one another. By graduation day, there is nothing to keep them together and Bob, the last to leave the house, slowly recedes into madness.

Michael Weller is an American dramatist and screenwriter. *MoonChildren* was originally entitled *Cancer* and was first performed in 1970 at the Royal Court in England. It was not until 1972, when it premiered in America, that he changed the title to its current name. Weller is best known for his screenplays for the musicals *Hair* and *Ragtime*, for which he earned an Academy Award nomination.

MoonChildren runs from January 27 - January 30, 8:00 pm and tickets are $6.00.

Warning: coarse language and smoking on stage. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (416) 287-7007.

The Production of *MoonChildren* gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Scarborough Drama Programme and the University of Toronto at Drama Society.

THE FRONT ROW

In Dreams is nothing but a nightmare

Zoë Cook and Niki Pappas
Contributors

In Dreams, the latest psychological horror from director **Neil Jordan**, starts off well enough. Promising, in fact. The film's opening scenes are filled with a subtle and magical air that captures the audience's interest. For the first twenty minutes, one almost begins to believe that the film will live up to its title – that it will truly be a dreamy and enchanting flick. Unfortunately, that hope is soon dashed to smithereens as the movie spirals into a full-fledged cinematic nightmare. Ultimately, *In Dreams* is nothing to dream about.

In Dreams follows the story of a clairvoyant woman who is plagued by visions of murders that are about to be committed by a serial killer. Played by **Annette Bening**, Claire Cooper becomes increasing tormented by the visions until she finally succumbs to them, in hopes that they will lead her directly to the killer, Vivian Thomson (**Robert Downey Jr.**). The dreams soon lead her along a twisted, terrific path, ultimately bringing Cooper to an abandoned cider farm in the heart of the New England wilderness. It is here that Cooper will face her dreams as reality.

Director **Neil Jordan** (*The Crying Game*, *Interview with a Vampire*) does his best to bring *In Dreams* to life. Unfortunately, Jordan seems too intent on focussing on tortuous underwater scenes appearing frequently throughout the movie, ignoring the need for a credible script and talented actors. The plot of *In Dreams* is highly unbelievable, as are the performances of the madcap murderer played by Downey Jr., and that of Cooper's psychiatrist, played by **Stephen Rea**. Annette Bening fares somewhat better in her role, at times almost convincing, as the cursed and ill-starred psychic. However, not even Bening can save this film from degenerating into one ghastly, nightmarish experience.

Forlorn, unappreciated, maybe a little confused. Robert Downey Jr. has a fitting role in this film

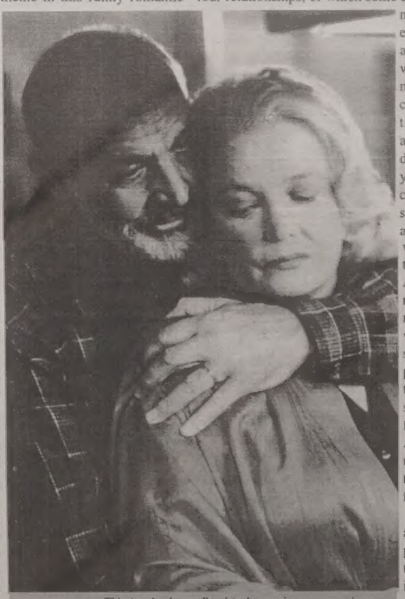
In Dreams, adapted from a book entitled *Doll's Eyes*, promises nothing more than unconvincing acting and confused, incredible and extremely improbable plot twists. The scenery and sets are positively sickening – the movie is filled with shots of grotesque bedrooms and derelict hotels – only adding to the twisted affair. As a result, Neil Jordan's *In Dreams* in nothing short of a nightmare.

L.A. Love Hits the Big Screen

Dragi Dodevski
Asst. Arts Editor

"Talking about love is like dancing about architecture..."

Love is the theme in this funny romantic mystery. That may sound cliché, but it is. *Playing by Heart* closely follows a group of people by cleverly showing snippets of their lives over the course of eight days and nights. The cast includes names such as **Sean Connery**, **Gena Rowlands**, **Ryan Phillipe**, **Angelina Jolie**, and **Dennis Quaid**.



This is why James Bond isn't a senior

These individuals, of varied generations and lifestyles, are all searching for love and connection in today's Los Angeles. Hannah (**Gena Rowlands**) and Paul (**Sean Connery**) are a couple whose 40-year old comfortable marriage is suddenly threatened by surprises that take place on the set of their home-based cooking show.

Meanwhile, Meredith, a single, serious theatre director, is romantically challenged by tenacious Trent. Gracie and Roger, a couple who find companionship amidst a high-rise hotel room affair, are happy to leave reality checked at the door, while Gracie's husband takes on a different personality each night in the quest of finding himself. Youngest of all are Joan and Keenan, who lose themselves in the L.A. club scene and hope to find love in an era where there are many obstacles.

This movie has given a new twist to the defintion of a 'love movie.' It simultaneously shows four relationships, of which some are only beginning, and others, like Paul and Hannah's, which are quite mature. Each couple belongs to a different age group, to a different world, yet they all encounter the same problems and they all deal with them in their own way. At the beginning of the movie, the viewer is presented with five plots to follow that at first seem so far away from each other. And it is not until the end that everything falls into place.

A lot of attention was paid to detail in the surroundings, as well as at completely developing each character, which was why the viewer could not help but fall in love with each one of them. There was a richness and colourfulness that each actor brought to the set, which never made this two-hour showcase boring.

I would definitely recommend seeing this movie.

HUMANITY HATING ALIENS GO PUBLIC AGAIN

Maria Masiar
Contributor

Do you remember the movie *Event Horizon*? Yeah well, take that and add a bunch of ugly looking machines and you have *Virus*.

The movie, like every good thriller, has the trusty Russians who really get rashed by a big pink glowing electrical alien. Don't get me wrong however, the film does have a good line up of actors (**William Baldwin**, **Jamie Lee Curtis**, and **Donald Sutherland**) who made the movie realistic and rather enjoyable. Everything from greed to delusion to fear is portrayed throughout the film, and the plot was interesting in the concepts that it induced; a fight between man and machine, intelligent extra-terrestrial life and the fragility of mankind.

Although the title makes you think that the virus is the alien....the virus is man. There were no neat special effects except for complex machines that eventually become fused with man (in a rather gruesome manner). Overall, this movie gets 3 out of 5 stars and is one that you can go see with your friends. By the way, these machines are like the energizer bunny from hell, so be prepared for some action!

The robots are coming! The robots are coming! And we're still in the tub!

The Underground is currently looking for avid movie-goers to write for The Front Row. Flicks are on us!

Interested? Call the office at 287-7054!

EAR TO THE GROUND

FAST TALK

Irini Shehata
Staff

Four Nights at the Palais Royale is a 2-CD set of live cuts to be released March 23rd by **Sloan**. The tracks all come from the band's week-long stay in Toronto this past November. The set has a total of 28 songs including new and old tracks...Also in multi-set albums, expect *Lilith Fair* live to hit stores by the summer. The three albums planned will include live cuts from various 1998 tour stops as well as rare tracks from **Sarah McLachlin** and other female performers...The late **Michael Hutchence** of Australia's **INXS** is having a movie made out of his life story. While filming has not yet started, **Russell Crowe**, known for his role in *LA Confidential*, has been chosen to play the deceased musician in the flick. Rumors continue to surround whether or not a solo album from Hutchence will be released...**Spice Girls**, **Sting** and **Janet Jackson**: what do they have in common? Apparently, Verdi's *Aida*. **Elton John** has decided to plan an opera album of the classic and has asked these three major acts to take part in the project. No word yet if any have accepted. John's goal is to finish the project by the year's end...In an attempt to make a comeback, **Right Said Fred**, famous for their runway hit "I'm Too Sexy," have started making headlines once again overseas with their greatest hits album, tentatively titled *Up Up and Away*. The threesome hopes to put out some new music feature the talents of none other than **Slash** as well as **the Jungle Brothers**. More is expected as the year goes on...When it comes to *Lollapalooza*, nobody knows what to expect. The summer tour, which was cancelled last year due to a lack of willing performers, is trying to get back on its feet and is currently in talks with **No Doubt**, **Offspring** and **Marilyn Manson**...**Love and Rockets** will hit the road in March with **Orgy** as the opening act. There has not yet been a Toronto date announced as the group is mostly touring the West coast...*Summer Teeth* is the third full-length album expected from **Wilco** March 1st. The band is expected to follow the release with some tour dates...Among those tour dates are a Toronto stop between March 3rd and 7th for Canadian Music Week. Once again, over 200 bands will perform at various Toronto venues in a three-night span. Others expected to make appearances include **Sepultura**, **Blue Rodeo** and **Shawn Mullins**...Finally, as predicted, **Prince**'s eighties hit "1999" has already made its way back on the Billboard charts after over a decade. The song is expected to climb further up the charts as the year progresses...

The story of Michael Hutchence soon to be a motion picture

Barry: Singer of Lullabyes

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

Monique Barry's independent release is aptly named *Moody*. Melancholy and introspective, the lyrics swell and billow along like waves of feelings over a calmer sea of piano accompaniment. Difficult to categorize, these songs blend folk music elements with a harder edge. There is the pared-down simple sound of just piano, drums, violin and occasionally a clarinet that is appealing and honest.

The lyrics speak of common stresses, though they avoid sounding self-obsessed. "And through your sins I'd see me, blushed and scared and afraid of crying." Despite their sadness, there is a hopefulness of surmounting life's tribulations. Monique may be moody, but she can have moments of joy.

These songs would be nice to play as you are going to bed; they are calming and smooth. Monique's voice is high and sweet and she sometimes surprises the listener with an almost operatic trill.

Because this is an independent release, it may be difficult to find in some stores. She can be contacted at mmbarry@hotmail.com if you are having trouble finding it. Or you can check her out at the Rex Hotel on Feb 21st where she will be performing with **Ralitza Tcholakova** and **Christopher Plock**. Though I wouldn't say *Moody* is a fantastic album, it shows potential and with some development Monique Barry could become another successful female singer/songwriter.

From Times Past

Jackson San Luis
Asst. Arts Editor

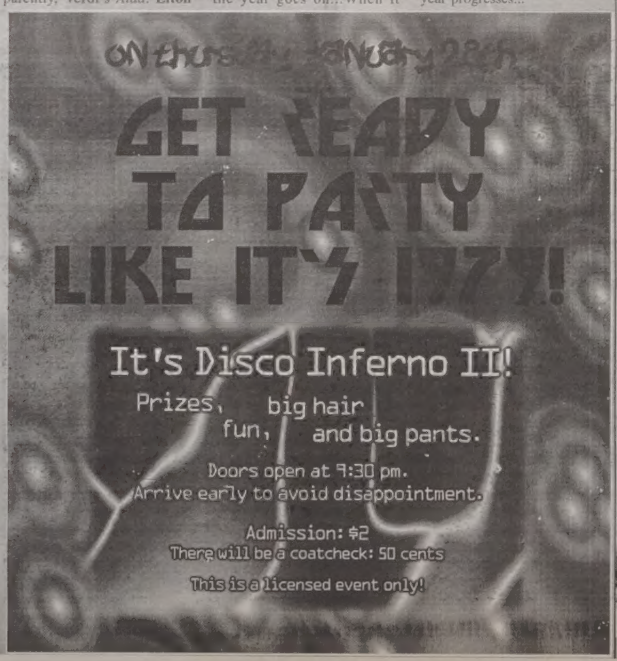
There is something haunting and beautiful about the music produced by the British choir, known as the **Mediaeval Baebes**. If the music sounds vaguely similar to the various works of **Miranda Sex Garden**, it is largely due to **Katherine Blake**'s involvement with the nostalgic act. Blake, being an ex-member of MSG, assembled the group of a dozen women with the aid of mediaeval specialist, **Dorothy Carter**, back in 1996 when they met in Berlin. Together, they formed the choir and released their debut, *Salva Nos*.

One album later, the Baebes prove that they are more than just a cult phenomenon. Their sixteen track opus, *Worldes Blysse*, is a well-crafted masterpiece of layered vocal transitions set to tribal beats and silence. Indeed, the ethereal voices of these women are so captivating that music becomes synonymous with their own vocal arrangements.

Most of the tracks on *Worldes Blysse* do not venture over the three-minute plateau. Many listeners will get the feeling that each song ends just as they are beginning to appreciate them. This is where much of the album's appeal lies. You are left with an insatiable desire to hear more.

What makes this coterie especially original is their cross-cultural appeal. Aside from having performed in more conventional establishments, they have also entertained crowds in graveyards, as well as in various alternative lifestyle clubs to the adoration of fans from almost every age category.

Although their madrigals and mantras evoke spirits of times past, they are very much as entertaining in the present. If fourteenth century spirits are yearning within you, this is definitely an album you will not want to miss out on.



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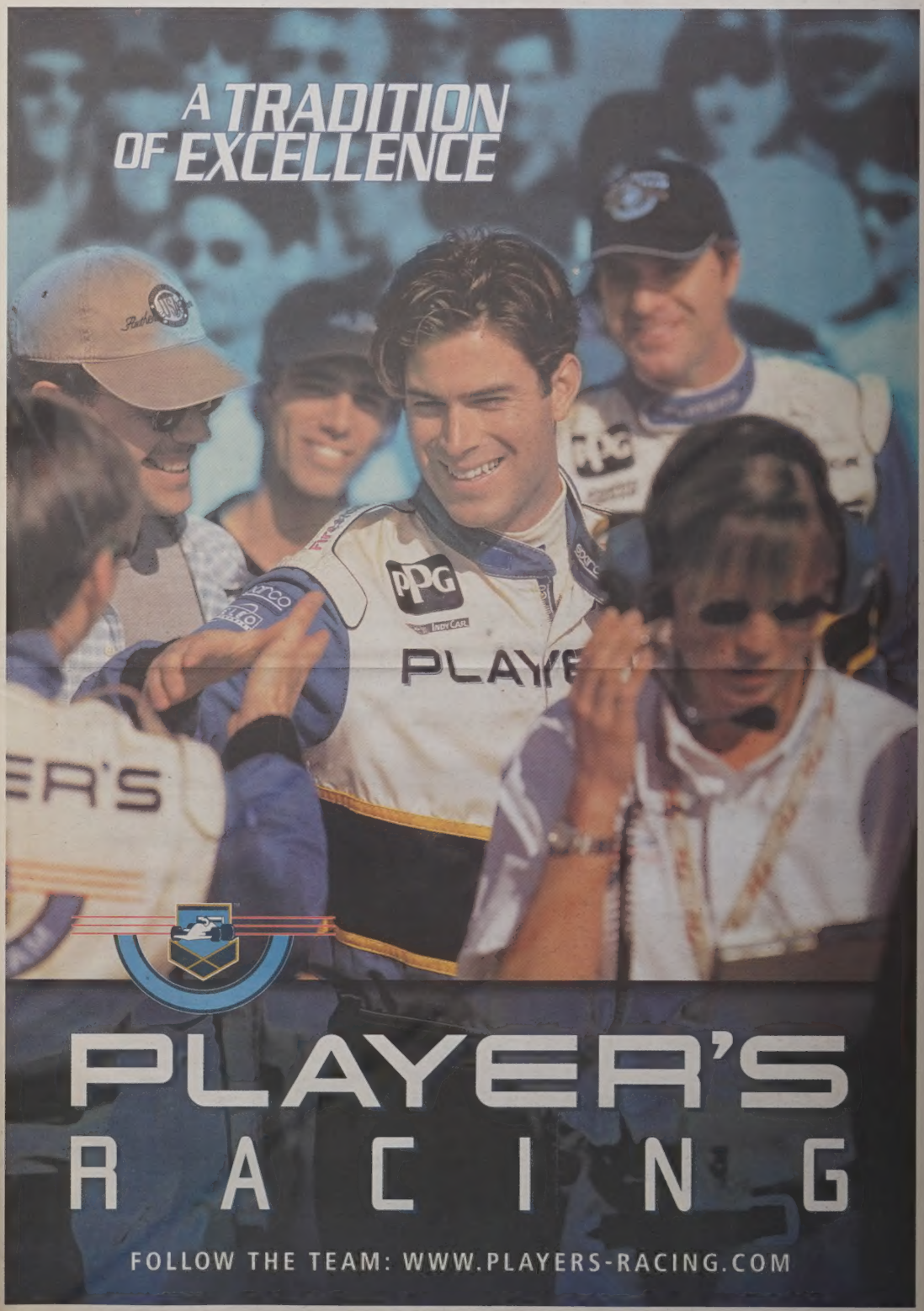
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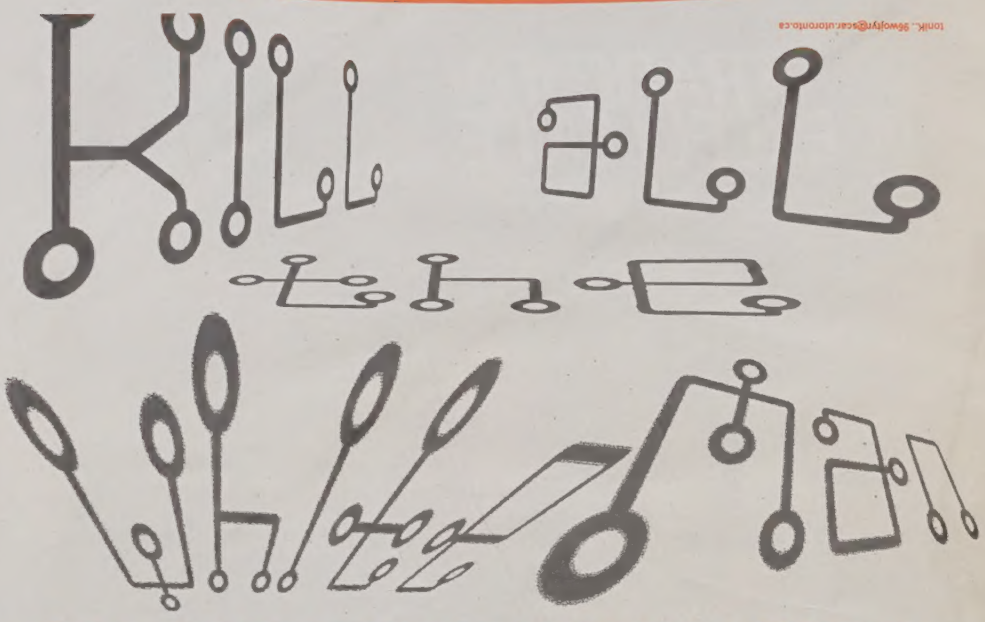

tonik_86wolfyn@scar.utoronto.ca

REAL ASTROLOGY FOR AN UNREAL WORLD

Aries March 20 - April 19 You're always looking for a good fight because you feel that you're right. Take hold of your place in life and stop with the strife! The opinion is only yours; to others, it truly bores. Limitations have a purpose, like Lake Ontario for a porpoise. It just couldn't live in that mess so why would it go there?

Taurus April 20 - May 20 You're stubborn it's true, so why don't you take it as a clue and get over yourself. You know how to charm and avoid evil's harm. Strength and love you've learned to gain as courage allows you to learn from existing pain. You'd rather walk down the lonely lane, but watch out for oncoming traffic.

Gemini May 21 - June 20 You have a strong will, but remember that curiosity can kill, and even when you are at your best, you still need lots of rest. Look beyond what you see, transparency is the key. If you look through someone else's eyes, you will then see where the future lies. Inside there is a desire to disappear, but loneliness is what you fear, besides, how much fun do you really think it would be if you were to become invisible?

Cancer June 21 - July 22 It is dangerous to deny those on whom you rely. Resistance and defiance is the way you deal with opposition and that's ok, for now anyway. As an outcast, you feel you always come out last; however this is not true, a cow does moo and so can you. You may be made of steel, but you're no Superman.

Leo July 23 - August 22 You command attention wherever you go. This time give them a real show, make them get down on their knees, cause they're only there to please and of course follow your lead and give you all that you need. You rule by the heart and you are extremely smart. What else could you ever ask for? Except, maybe more.

Virgo August 23 - September 22 We are all connected, so there is no reason for you to feel rejected. Pay attention to what you do, cause at times it's as though you don't have a clue. Poor you. There is nothing you can't conquer, especially if you use a bonker. They are light to hold and can make a person feel rather bold. You wish to accomplish everything, but it is impossible even for a king.

Libra September 23 - October 22 Have you been feeling possessed? Maybe that's because you have become obsessed. It's all in your style, that is what's making people unable to smile. If you are searching for treasure, can you tell me if and when you find it cause I've been searching for years trying to find mine. Anyway, life is here to teach lessons, and in my opinion there are way too many different sessions.

Scorpio October 23 - November 21 Shy at times, you cross the lines when you're in selfish mode and carrying a load. You experience many different moods, which at times can make you seem crude; however, you can be both sane and humane. People around you give you clearance especially when you are fascinated with your appearance.

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21 As you travel down the road, you must uncover the code. This journey must be travelled alone, just like a dog burying a bone or a single ice cream cone. When you achieve your goal, you will then be allowed to have a pet mole, to keep and cherish until it shall perish. Limitations don't exist… ok, yeah they do.

Capricorn December 22 - January 19 There is a threat that has been set, and it will last until you correct the past. Or are you going to wait until you're in a body cast? If you have something to say, don't let anyone stand in the way. The truth must be heard only then can you be cured.

Aquarius January 20 - February 18 Anchored within your heart, lies a warrior who needs to start a mission, which is clear, to those who do not fear the reality and vision of a test. To begin the quest, you must do what's best…Save the Rainforest!

Pisces February 19 - March 19 What an enlightened fish being you are. You need to travel near and far. It is your own voice that will get you a Rolls Royce. Attitude is the key, it will let you be the King of Kings and everything. Here's a word of advice, live on the pipeline of life.

Muppet of the Month:
Dr. Bunsen Honeydew

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